

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: COMM:APLANAGAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ETRD, BBAK, RO

SUBJ: ROMANIAN INTEREST IN U.S.COKING COAL

REF: BUCHAREST 3555

1. IN RESPONSE REFTEL USDOC BEWT HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH CONSOLIDATION'S MACBRIDE AND FORMER SEN. ALBERT GORE, CHAIRMAN OF ISLAND CREEK. RESULTS OF CONVERSATIONS FOLLOW.

2. ISLAND CREEK - GORE INFORMED US THAT ON AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 15 HE MET WITH AMBASSADOR BOGDAN TO FINALIZE CONTRACT FOR SALE OF 10,000 TONS OF COKING COAL MONTHLY BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1, 1974. THIS FIGURE WOULD RISE TO 200,000 TONS ANNUALLY BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1975 AND RUN THROUGH JANUARY 1980.

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HE ALSO GAVE AMBASSADOR BOGDAN A PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL FOR A

ROMANIAN JOINT VENTURE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ISLAND CREEK. IT WOULD CALL FOR A ROMANIAN INVESTMENT OF DOLS 50 MILLION IN THE UNITED STATES. GORE SAID THAT DISCUSSIONS ON BOTH TRANSACTIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE OVER THE COURSE OF SEVERAL MONTHS. THIS IS IN APPARENT CONTRADICTION TO THE POSITION OF NO U.S. CORPORATE INTEREST TAKEN BY AMBASSADOR BOGDAN AND OTHER ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DURING THEIR RECENT MEETINGS WITH SENIOR STATE AND COMMERCE OFFICIALS.

3. CONSOLIDATION COAL - MACBRIDE SAYS THAT HIS COMPANY IS AT PRESENT NOT CONSIDERING LONGTERM CONTRACTS WITH ANY OF ITS US OR NON US CUSTOMERS UNTIL IT IS IN BETTER POSITION TO ANALYZE RESULTS OF UPCOMING UNITED MINEWORKERS MEMORIAL STRIKE, THE NOVEMBER WAGE NEGOTIATIONS, AND U.S.G. AND W. VIRGINIA POLICIES ON STIP MINING AND ENVIRONMENT CONTROLS. THEY REMAIN INTERESTED IN THE JOINT VENTURE CONCEPT, AND AS IN THE CASE OF ISLAND CREEK'S CORPORATE PARENT, OCCIDENTAL, THEIR CORPORATE PARENT, CONTINENTAL OIL, HAS BEGUN LOW LEVEL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOR CONCERNING BLACK SEA EXPLORATIONS. CONSOLIDATION BELIEVES THAT THE TWO PROJECTS COULD BE TIED TOGETHER.

3. GORE IS PLANNING VISIT TO BUCHAREST SHORTLY. WILL ADVISE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. KISSINGER

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